



# Central Congregational United Church of Christ

**EASTER**

**April 20, 2025**

Ministers / **All of us**

Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**

Worship Leader / **Melanie Ralston**

Music Director and Accompanist / **Linda Smith**

Musicians and Vocalists / **Carlos Cabezas, Kim Long and Tim Sharp**

## **\*Music for Gathering**

Carlos Cabezas

## **\*Hymn of Triumph**

*“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”*

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Al - le - lu - ia!**

**Mortal tongues and angels say: Al - le - lu - ia!**

**Raise your joys and triumphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!**

**Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Al - le - lu - ia!**

**Let the Victor’s people sing, Al - le - lu - ia!**

**Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!**

**Dying once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!**

**Where your victory, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!**

**Love’s redeeming work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!**

**Fought the fight, the battle won, Al - le - lu - ia!**

**Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!**

**God has opened paradise, Al - le - lu - ia!**

*\* indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

***Bold** indicates to speak or sing in unison.*

## **\*Call to Worship**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

**Hallelujah!**

The bread of life has broken the power of death!

Let no one go hungry in body or spirit ever again!

**Jesus is alive!**

**Hallelujah!**

Let all creation rejoice!

**Christ is risen, conquering hate and violence!**

Christ is risen, conquering decay and deceit!

**Christ is risen, conquering death itself!**

Let the people of God find wholeness and healing.

**The Kin-dom of God is at hand!**

**Hallelujah!**

## **\*Hymn of Triumph**

*"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"*

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!**

**Following our exalted Head, Al - le - lu - ia!**

**Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!**

**Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!**

## **Greetings**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**God of Hosannas and Hallelujahs,  
we confess to you our weakness and unbelief.**

**We have lived by our own strength  
and not by the power of the Resurrection.**

God, hear us and help us.

**We have lived by the light of our own eyes  
and not by the Christ light.**

God, hear us and help us.

**We have lived for the world as it is  
and doubted our home in the Kin-dom.**

God, hear us and help us.

**Amen.**

# Assurance of Pardon

## Passing the Peace

### Music

*“Morning Has Broken”*

Tim Sharp

## Our Sacred Story

*John 20:11-18*

Meanwhile, Mary stood weeping beside the tomb. Even as she wept, she stooped to peer inside, and there she saw two angels in dazzling robes. One was seated at the head and the other at the foot of the place where Jesus’ body had lain. They asked her, “Why are you weeping?”

She answered them, “Because they have taken away my Rabbi, and I don’t know where they have put the body.”

No sooner had she said this than she turned around and caught sight of Jesus standing there, but she didn’t know it was Jesus. He asked her, “Why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?”

She supposed it was the gardener, so she said, “Please, if you’re the one who carried Jesus away, tell me where you’ve laid the body and I will take it away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned to him and said, “Rabboni!” — which means “Teacher.”

Jesus then said, “Don’t hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to Abba God. Rather, go to the sisters and brothers and tell them, “I’m ascending to my Abba and to your Abba, my God and your God!”

Mary of Magdala went to the disciples. “I have seen the Teacher!” she announced. Then she reported what the savior had said to her.

### Music

*“Easter Hallelujah”*

Kim Long

## Message

*“Can I Get a Hallelujah?”*

Rev. Gage Church

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# \*Hymn

## "I Danced in the Morning"



1. I danced in the morn - ing when the world was be - gun, and I  
 2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but they  
 3. I danced on the Sab - bath and I cured the lame, the  
 4. I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black, it's  
 5. They cut me down and I leap up high,



1. danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I  
 2. would not dance and they would-n't fol - low me, I  
 3. ho - ly peo - ple, they said it was a shame, they  
 4. hard to dance with the dev - il on your back, they  
 5. I am the life that I nev - er, nev - er die, I'll



1. came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth, at  
 2. danced for the fish - er - men, for James and for John, they  
 3. whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and they  
 4. bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but  
 5. live in you if you'll live in me,



1. Beth - le - hem I had my birth.  
 2. came with me and the dance went on.  
 3. left me there on a cross to die.  
 4. I am the dance and I still go on.  
 5. I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.



Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be. I am the Lord of the



Dance, said he. I'll lead you all wher - ev - er you may be, I will



lead you all in the dance, said he. dance, said he.

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## The Prayer of Jesus

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kin-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,  
for thine is the Kin-dom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## Offering

*We are “centralchurchtopeka” on Venmo.*

## \*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen

## \*Prayer of Dedication

God of the Resurrection,  
you offer us life that overcomes death,  
light that overcomes darkness,  
hope that overcomes our deepest despair!  
In return we offer our gifts,  
and also our minds, hearts and bodies.  
May the “Hallelujahs!” we shout leave this place with us  
to bring hope to everyone we meet! Amen.

## \*Hymn

*“In the Garden”*

I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses;  
and the voice I hear, falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses.  
And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own.  
And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing;  
and the melody that he gave to me within my heart is ringing.  
And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own.  
And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

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## Remembering Our Baptisms

In the name of the Father, in the name of the Mother, source of life,  
**from whom water flows, to whom water returns;**  
In the name of the Son, in the name of the Only Begotten,  
flesh and blood in whom we meet the Divine,  
**born of the physical water of childbirth and the subtle water of Spirit;**  
In the name of the Spirit, the Word, holy Mother Wisdom,  
ideal formless form, wind that moves water,  
**unseen energy, bliss of creativity, rapturous beauty.**  
You were baptized with water, washing away all that obscures God  
from your soul, so that you may become a clear, clean mirror  
**reflecting the presence of the divine.**  
May this water awaken the memory within you of your baptism,  
ordain you to works of service and compassion,  
and confirm your intention to grow in love for God and all beings.  
**Amen!**

## Music

Carlos Cabezas

## Holy Communion

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:  
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

## Coming Forward

*Please come to the front to share the meal and recall your baptism.  
If you are unable to come forward, we will come to you.*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**God of Life,**  
**thank you for this sacred meal that reminds us of the bread of life.**  
**You have fed us and filled us with the hope of resurrection.**  
**Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**  
**May we carry the bread of life into the world,**  
**bringing comfort to the hurting, food to the hungry and hope to the hopeless.**  
**Strengthen us to proclaim justice, mercy and peace**  
**to every soul we encounter. Amen.**

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## **\*Prayer of Affirmation**

This is the day that God has made!  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

## **\*Hymn**

*“Christ Arose”*

Low in the grave he lay, Jesus, my Savior,  
waiting the coming day, Jesus, our Lord.  
Up from the grave he arose,  
with a mighty triumph o’er his foes.  
He arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever, with the saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah, Christ arose!

Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus, my Savior;  
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus, my Lord!  
Up from the grave he arose,  
with a mighty triumph o’er his foes.  
He arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever, with the saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah, Christ arose!

Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus, my Savior.  
He tore the bars away, Jesus, my Lord!  
Up from the grave he arose,  
with a mighty triumph o’er his foes.  
He arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever, with the saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah, Christ arose!

## **\*Benediction**

## **Music for Sending**

*“Amen”*

# *Hallelujah!*



MARK RALSTON

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